

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**June 5, 2014**

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The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 pm in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

### **Members Present**

First Selectman, Michael J. Freda

Second Selectman, Timothy M. Doheny

Third Selectman, Sally J. Buemi

Mr. Freda introduced himself and Selectmen Timothy Doheny and Sally Buemi to the meeting.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda. Mr. Raymond Sonazaro, Elm Street, stated that with regard to the Cemetery Commission appointments, he is of the opinion that the commission is useless and of no value to the Town. Mr. Freda disagreed and stated they provide a valuable service and it will not be disbanded. He invited Mr. Sonazaro to attend a meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Freda then proceeded with honoring Pat LaTerza, Library Head of Children's Services with an official citation of the Town of North Haven for her contributions to the community and the enrichment of our children through reading. Mr. Doheny and Mr. Freda shared personal stories relative to reading.

Miss Buemi noted a correction to the minutes of May 1, 2014. The correction was noted and Mr. Doheny motioned the approval, seconded by Miss Buemi.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Miss Buemi motioned the approval of the minutes of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting of May 27, 2014. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Mr. Freda then proceeded to read a letter from the Middle School Building Committee requesting the voting signs be moved back to the original locations at the schools. Mr. Freda supported this and also thought we could purchase some additional signs for future referendums to place at the alternate locations that Miss Buemi and Mr. Doheny discussed. Miss Buemi suggested that the insert signs with the date, perhaps could be month and day without the year, and then we may be able to re-use them. It would be a cost savings to the Town. There was then some discussion on the cost of the inserts, and Lynn Sadosky stated she would research. Miss Buemi motioned the approval of the request made by the building committee to return the signs to the schools. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Selectman's Overview:

### **OPERATIONAL:**

- MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT: Town meeting held on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Referendum, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the special website for information regarding the

project. [www.nhmsproject.com](http://www.nhmsproject.com)

- Spring Road Bridge Reconstruction: Through the bidding process, project was awarded to Nagy Brothers Construction for \$393,507, less and the originally estimated fee of \$600,000. Materials have been ordered and construction is expected to commence in August. The contractor will be closing Spring Road at the bridge for up to 4 months. Reimbursable costs by the DOT are estimated at \$200,000.
- Clintonville Road – State Rt. 22 Milling and Paving: State DOT milling and paving from intersection of Washington Avenue to North Branford Town line starting June 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm daily. Expected to conclude on June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Recreation Field Refurbishment: Bid opening held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for refurbishment of rec field located to the rear of the Town Hall Annex on 5 Linsley St. Bidders were solicited for installation of an irrigation system, associated water and electrical work and complete refurbishment of the field. The project cost of \$30,150 is being funded through LoCIP grant dollars. Work will start on or after August 2, 2014.
- Milling and Paving 2014/15: Completion of the remainder of the 2012 capital bonding program for Town roadways will be executed on July 28<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Because so many roadways remain in need of attention, milling and paving discussions have begun regarding the proposal of a new multi-year capital bonding program for milling and paving in 2015.

#### FINANCIAL UPDATE:

- North Haven AAA Status: Standard & Poor's recently rated North Haven outstanding in their strategic management, operations management, finance management and overall economic development. This AAA rating will save the Town millions of dollars in debt reduction.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

- Staples Plaza:
  - Five Below (fashion accessories, female beauty products, school supplies, computer software, bath & body related items)
  - Namco Pool and Patio
- Best Buy Plaza:
  - New Comcast Service Center
- 285 State Street:
  - Triad Construction Services moved from New Haven 6,000 sq ft warehouse and office
  - Willco Sales and Service Inc. moved from Fairfield 5,875 sq ft warehouse and office
- New Business in former Marlin's location:
  - C. Cowles and Company
    - Established in 1838 founded in New Haven. Manufactures world class precision metal stamping.
    - Produce components for both U.S. and Japanese auto makers
    - Total of 6 operating divisions
    - Diversified company that also produces plastic injection molding, commercial lighting, automobile accessories, boiler controls, boiler burners, and controls and ignitions for heating industry
    - Massachusetts division will be consolidated into North Haven along with corporate operations in New Haven and will begin moving to North Haven in July of this year with a gradual phase in.
    - Job Fair scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> at Best Western Plus.
- North Haven Shopping Center
- Clintonville Manor
- Pratt and Whitney
- X-Pect Discount Plaza
- Old Walgreens In Stop & Shop Plaza

- Bozzutos

NOTEWORTHY:

- Music Under the Stars Concert Series starts Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm and continues each Tuesday through August.

Miss Buemi then discussed her dissatisfaction with the presentation at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Finance meeting concerning the possibility of putting a second question on the ballot on the middle school referendum pertaining to bonding 1.5 million dollars for reconditioning of the sports fields, concessions, bleachers and restrooms at Vanacore Field. She is a supporter of athletics, but felt the timing of this was poor since the BOE made sacrifices on their budget requests as well as other departments including Public Works. Miss Buemi felt that the second bonding question could possibly jeopardize the passing of the Middle School Project, and was contrary to the concerns of taxpayer stress emphasized during the recent budget season. Mr. Doheny questioned Miss Buemi as he was confused on the point she was making. She explained she thought it was bad timing for the BOF to entertain the presentation, and they discussed it further. Mr. Doheny did not see anything unusual with the Board of Finance hearing a presentation of this nature and many ideas get brought before the Board, some get accepted and some get turned down. Miss Buemi continued to explain her viewpoint regarding the timing of this issue. Mr. Freda stated that the bottom line was this was rejected. He explained that in our form of government people have the opportunity to express themselves, make suggestions, and present items for consideration. He stated the Board recognized it was not the right thing, and voted it down. Michelle Spader, Secretary of the Middle School Building Committee, stated that she would like to make it clear that the presentation given by David Mikos, was not in his capacity as a Middle School Project committee member, but a private citizen. She wanted to make it clear that it was not something that was presented by the Building Committee. Mr. Freda concluded that they will look to get the project underwritten by other entities and fundraisers, and not go through additional bonding.

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the resignation of Rita Landino from the Cemetery Commission. Mr. Freda noted that after 17 plus years on the commission, she has decided not to renew her term. The Board thanked Mrs. Landino for her many years of service.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the resignation of Michelle L. Bonora (R), 445 Clintonville Road, as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals term to expire December 1, 2017.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the reappointment of Lynn Fredricksen (R), 95 Pool Road, to the Cemetery Commission, for a two (2) year term to expire June 30, 2016.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the reappointment of Pamela Trepanier (R), 265 Basset Road to the Cemetery Commission, for a two (2) year term to expire June 30, 2016.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the reappointment of James H. Iovieno (R), 600 Washington Avenue, Unit F4, to the Blight Prevention Appeals Board for a two (2) year term to expire June 30, 2016.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the reappointment of Dot Logan, 2065 Hartford Turnpike as the Catchment Area Council Representative Mental Health Coordinator for a two (2) year term to expire May 31, 2016.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the approval of the following Bond Releases as presented.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

- 18 Grasso Avenue – Stephen Grasso release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$10,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- 344 Washington Avenue – Banton Construction Company (Leon's Restaurant) release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$2,500.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- 30 Stillman Road – Kulback's Inc. release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$50,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the approval of the following property tax refunds as presented.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

- Big Lots Stores Inc. #5144, 300 Philippi Road Tax Department Columbus, OH 43228-6311 in the amount of \$354.44.
- Durante, Peter R Jr., 53 Shaw Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$200.18.
- Elm City Mfg, LLC, 370 Sackett Pt. Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$320.80, and in the amount of \$490.50.
- Gelco Corporation, 3 Capital Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344-3890 in the amount of \$298.14.

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the approval of the dates of the 2015 Board of Selectmen's meetings: The meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month (with the exception of January). The meetings will be in the Community Room of the North Haven Memorial Library, at 7:00 pm. Dates as follows: January 8, 2015; February 5, 2015; March 5, 2015; April 2, 2015; May 7, 2015; June 4, 2015; July 2, 2015; August 6, 2015; September 3, 2015; October 1, 2015; November 5, 2015; and December 3, 2015.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Buemi – Yes

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is on Thursday, July 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

Mr. Freda asked if there was any public comment, and the selectmen shared discussion with several residents who had comments and questions.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, had several comments regarding various topics including the voting signs and utilizing high school students to make inserts; repaving of Route 22 and his hope that it would include the torn up section on the east side near

Washington Avenue; an article in the New Haven Register regarding the State filling the financial gap for New Haven; congratulations on the Town receiving AAA rating; his research regarding artificial turf fields and the cons regarding them; and purchase of a new fire truck and his concern that it be handled through the legislative body of the Town.

John Heeran, Debra Lane, had several comments including offering his congratulations regarding the Town's AAA rating; he shared Mr. Katz's concern regarding turf fields, Fire Commission meeting regarding buying a new emergency vehicle and the additional money collected from transporting. Mr. Freda explained the "safer grant".

Gary Amato, Pool Road, had several questions and comments regarding a variety of topics including HID leaving town; rumors of layoffs at Covidien; the two volunteer fire houses and the budget and change to renovation plans for those; emergency money for fire house roof repairs; flyers regarding the middle school referendum; and middle school accreditation.

Mr. Katz commented on voter turnout and the right to vote and the paramedics qualifications and importance of having them.

Mr. Amato discussed home values relative to a new middle school and his opinion that they do not increase; as well as his feelings that the middle school project was rushed and there were other options. Also he encouraged the residents to vote.

Mr. Heeran also asked residents to vote.

Mr. Brian Testa, Maple Avenue commented on what we can expect if the school gets voted down; the home values based on schools and using schooldigger.com; his recollection of the fire commission meeting and the repairs to the firehouse roof; and the possibility of bringing the fields and buildings under the Town's side to maintain.

Mrs. Michelle Spader, Leighton Court, clarified that the flyer distributed at the parade was simply informational only. There was nothing contained stating how to vote, but just encouraged voting at the middle school referendum. She encouraged residents to get their questions answered and be sure of the facts before making a decision to vote. She provided the email to get answers.

John Heeran commented on the Town taking over the BOE fields and buildings being discussed as far back as 25 years ago.

Patty Jackson Marshall, stated that there will be a concert on the green the night of the referendum and that there will be reserved parking spaces and curbside voting available.

With no further comments from the public, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn. Miss Buemi seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.